

Agency Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Agency Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	84.03	0.00	4.58	88.61	0.00	4.58	88.61	88.61
Personal Services	4,223,764	198,465	717,052	5,139,281	211,332	965,400	5,400,496	10,539,777
Operating Expenses	833,711	55,607	62,362	951,680	21,066	55,919	910,696	1,862,376
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Costs	\$5,057,475	\$254,072	\$779,414	\$6,090,961	\$232,398	\$1,021,319	\$6,311,192	\$12,402,153
General Fund	4,675,386	116,533	779,414	5,571,333	219,860	1,021,319	5,916,565	11,487,898
State/Other Special	281,148	137,776	0	418,924	12,776	0	293,924	712,848
Federal Special	100,941	(237)	0	100,704	(238)	0	100,703	201,407
Total Funds	\$5,057,475	\$254,072	\$779,414	\$6,090,961	\$232,398	\$1,021,319	\$6,311,192	\$12,402,153

Agency Description

The Montana School for the Deaf and Blind (MSDB), located in Great Falls, operating under the authority of Title 20-8-101 through 121, MCA, is part of Montana's educational system, and under the policy and governance of the State Board of Public Education. The school is a state funded special purpose school with a residential option for children and adolescents whose hearing or sight is a barrier to receiving proper education in the public schools of the state. MSDB also provides outreach educational services and serves as a resource center for parents of deaf and blind children, as well as state public schools and organizations that serve sensory impaired children. The mission of the school is to provide students with the "building blocks" to become independent, contributing members of society.

MSDB executes its mandated duties with 84.03 FTE and four programs: administration, general services (grounds and buildings), student services (residential), and education. In FY 2006 MSDB served a total population of 2,614, an 8.1 percent increase over the 2,418 served in FY 2004. The population served includes students enrolled in the education program, individuals receiving educational and audiological evaluations, outreach programs serving families and children ages 0 to 21 and public schools, and students attending summer and weekend programs.

Agency Highlights

School for the Deaf and Blind	
Major Budget Highlights	
◆	Increases for MSDB include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$281,028 general fund to address recruitment and retention issues with professional staff • FTE and general fund to reduce caseloads for outreach consultants, implement accreditation recommendations, and increase the number of educational audiologists
◆	Increases of \$85,000 appropriated in the December 2005 Special Session were included in the statewide present law adjustments.

Summary of Legislative Action

The legislature approved \$1.2 million and 4.58 FTE over the 2009 biennium in the Education Program to provide for market adjustments for licensed professional staff and interpreters, expand outreach services and reduce caseloads of consultants, support a guidance counselor to implement a school counseling program and an educational audiologist to coordinate the Universal Newborn Infant Hearing Screening Program, and increase the per educator component.

The executive included funding in both the Student Services and Education Programs to increase the per educator component by \$790 per quality educator based on changes included in SB 152 of the 2007 regular session. Neither HB 820 nor SB 152 passed. SB 2 of the May 2007 special session increased the per educator component from \$2,000 per quality educator to \$3,036 in FY 2008 and \$3,042 in FY 2009. Therefore, the legislature appropriated \$1,036 per educator in FY 2008 and \$1,042 in FY 2009 for MSDB in HB 2 of the May 2007 special session.

The legislature also approved increases to personal services included in both the statewide present law adjustments and HB 13 of the 2007 regular session.

Agency Discussion

Included in the long-range building cash program is \$600,000 to replace the boilers installed in the 1940's with two gas fired boilers.

Funding

The following table summarizes funding for the agency, by program and source, as adopted by the legislature. Funding for each program is discussed in detail in the individual program narratives that follow.

Total Agency Funding 2009 Biennium Budget					
Agency Program	General Fund	State Spec.	Fed Spec.	Grand Total	Total %
01 Administration Program	\$ 894,187	\$ 4,320	\$ -	\$ 898,507	7.24%
02 General Services	1,090,366	-	-	1,090,366	8.79%
03 Student Services	2,609,320	-	54,374	2,663,694	21.48%
04 Education	<u>6,894,025</u>	<u>708,528</u>	<u>147,033</u>	<u>7,749,586</u>	<u>62.49%</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$ 11,487,898</u>	<u>\$ 712,848</u>	<u>\$ 201,407</u>	<u>\$ 12,402,153</u>	100.00%

MSDB's programs are funded primarily from the general fund, augmented by federal funding from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the school lunch program, and the Early Childhood Intervention Act. It also receives about \$710,000 each biennium in school trust interest earnings that are included in the state/other special revenues. This amount has been increased by \$134,511 in anticipation of increased earnings on the trust lands dedicated to the support of MSDB.

Other Legislation

House Bill 4 of the May 2007 special session included in the long-range building cash program \$600,000 to replace the boilers installed in the 1940's with two gas fired boilers and \$372,000 in authority only for cottage improvements. The funds are authority only and consist of federal special revenue, donations, and private grants. The bill also appropriates \$398,000 for various facility improvements as part of capital projects appropriations.

Senate Bill 2 of the May 2007 special session increased the per educator component from \$2,000 per quality educator to \$3,036 in FY 2008 and \$3,042 in FY 2009. MSDB received \$138,682 in FY 2008 and \$138,957 in FY 2009 for the per educator component. The funding was provided through a combination of statewide present law adjustments and new proposals.

Executive Budget Comparison

The following table compares the legislative budget in the 2009 biennium to the budget requested by the Governor, by type of expenditure and source of funding.

Executive Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	Executive Budget Fiscal 2008	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2008	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2008	Executive Budget Fiscal 2009	Legislative Budget Fiscal 2009	Leg – Exec. Difference Fiscal 2009	Biennium Difference Fiscal 08-09
FTE	84.03	88.61	88.61	0.00	88.61	88.61	0.00	
Personal Services	4,223,764	4,921,208	5,139,281	218,073	4,985,557	5,400,496	414,939	633,012
Operating Expenses	833,711	952,626	951,680	(946)	911,646	910,696	(950)	(1,896)
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Costs	\$5,057,475	\$5,873,834	\$6,090,961	\$217,127	\$5,897,203	\$6,311,192	\$413,989	\$631,116
General Fund	4,675,386	5,353,970	5,571,333	217,363	5,502,339	5,916,565	414,226	631,589
State/Other Special	281,148	419,101	418,924	(177)	294,101	293,924	(177)	(354)
Federal Special	100,941	100,763	100,704	(59)	100,763	100,703	(60)	(119)
Total Funds	\$5,057,475	\$5,873,834	\$6,090,961	\$217,127	\$5,897,203	\$6,311,192	\$413,989	\$631,116

The difference between the executive and legislative budgets is the result of increases to the per educator component above the executive proposal and a reduction in the state motor pool costs.

Language

"The student services program includes general fund money of \$7,669 in fiscal year 2008 and \$7,823 in fiscal year 2009 for increases to the quality educator component. The education program includes general fund money of \$13,058 in fiscal year 2008 and \$12,904 in fiscal year 2009 for increases to the quality educator component. The quality educator component increases are contingent upon passage and approval of legislation that increases the total quality educator payment as defined in 20-9-306(15)."

Program Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00
Personal Services	293,382	4,872	12,717	310,971	5,225	24,938	323,545	634,516
Operating Expenses	91,606	56,071	0	147,677	24,708	0	116,314	263,991
Total Costs	\$384,988	\$60,943	\$12,717	\$458,648	\$29,933	\$24,938	\$439,859	\$898,507
General Fund	384,549	59,222	12,717	456,488	28,212	24,938	437,699	894,187
State/Other Special	439	1,721	0	2,160	1,721	0	2,160	4,320
Total Funds	\$384,988	\$60,943	\$12,717	\$458,648	\$29,933	\$24,938	\$439,859	\$898,507

Program Description

The Administration Program staff provide purchasing, accounting, personnel functions, and management of business affairs for the school.

Program Highlights

Administration Program Major Budget Highlights	
♦	The legislature approved statewide present law adjustments and the increase related to the per educator component

Funding

The following table shows program funding, by source, for the base year and for the 2009 biennium as adopted by the legislature.

Program Funding Table Administration Program							
Program Funding	Base FY 2006	% of Base FY 2006	Budget FY 2008	% of Budget FY 2008	Budget FY 2009	% of Budget FY 2009	
01000 Total General Fund	\$ 384,549	99.9%	\$ 456,488	99.5%	\$ 437,699	99.5%	
01100 General Fund	384,549	99.9%	456,488	99.5%	437,699	99.5%	
02000 Total State Special Funds	439	0.1%	2,160	0.5%	2,160	0.5%	
02050 School Trust Interest/Income	439	0.1%	2,160	0.5%	2,160	0.5%	
Grand Total	\$ 384,988	100.0%	\$ 458,648	100.0%	\$ 439,859	100.0%	

The Administrative Program is funded with general fund and less than \$2,500 per year from the school's land trust earnings.

Present Law Adjustments

The “Present Law Adjustments” table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget approved by the legislature. “Statewide Present Law” adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services					17,548					17,915
Vacancy Savings					(12,676)					(12,690)
Inflation/Deflation					480					480
Fixed Costs					55,591					24,228
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments					\$60,943					\$29,933
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments					\$60,943					\$29,933

New Proposals

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
Program	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 1 - Per Educator Component										
01	0.00	1,153	0	0	1,153	0.00	1,153	0	0	1,153
DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13										
01	0.00	9,678	0	0	9,678	0.00	21,838	0	0	21,838
DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131										
01	0.00	1,886	0	0	1,886	0.00	1,947	0	0	1,947
Total	0.00	\$12,717	\$0	\$0	\$12,717	0.00	\$24,938	\$0	\$0	\$24,938

DP 1 - Per Educator Component - The legislature bill included general fund to provide for the per educator component increase included in SB 2 of the May 2007 special session. Total payment of \$3,036 per educator in FY 2008 and \$3,042 per educator in FY 2009, as well as associated benefits, are included for each qualifying educator in the Administration Program.

DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13 - The legislature passed a pay plan (HB 13 of the 2007 regular session) that provides an additional 3.0 percent in FY 2008 and FY 2009, a 0.5 percent increase in the 10-year longevity increment, an additional 0.6 percent discretionary allocation, as well as an additional \$33 per month in health insurance contribution in FY 2008 and an additional \$36 per month in FY 2009. These amounts represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this pay plan.

DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131 - The legislature adopted HB 131, which increases the employer contribution to retirement systems. The amounts shown represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this increased contribution.

Program Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00
Personal Services	151,820	5,851	5,004	162,675	7,418	11,755	170,993	333,668
Operating Expenses	365,011	15,954	0	380,965	10,722	0	375,733	756,698
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Costs	\$516,831	\$21,805	\$5,004	\$543,640	\$18,140	\$11,755	\$546,726	\$1,090,366
General Fund	516,831	21,805	5,004	543,640	18,140	11,755	546,726	1,090,366
Total Funds	\$516,831	\$21,805	\$5,004	\$543,640	\$18,140	\$11,755	\$546,726	\$1,090,366

Program Description

General Services Program staff is responsible for general upkeep and maintenance of the school's eight buildings and 18.5 acre campus.

Program Highlights

General Services Program Major Budget Highlights	
◆ Changes are the result of statewide present law adjustments.	

Program Narrative

The 2005 Legislature increased general fund appropriations to this program by \$75,000 each year to address repair and maintenance issues on the campus. MSDB FY 2006 maintenance expenditures were \$101,839, including the additional \$75,000.

In the 2009 biennium MSDB anticipates using the funds to:

- Re-key the campus complex to increase security over the buildings
- Install a video surveillance system to increase security and reduce vandalism
- Replace carpet and linoleum in the cottages
- Replace additional windows on the campus
- Replace additional ovens in the food service building
- Replace additional water heaters in the cottages

Funding

The following table shows program funding, by source, for the base year and for the 2009 biennium as adopted by the legislature.

Program Funding Table General Services						
Program Funding	Base FY 2006	% of Base FY 2006	Budget FY 2008	% of Budget FY 2008	Budget FY 2009	% of Budget FY 2009
01000 Total General Fund	\$ 516,831	100.0%	\$ 543,640	100.0%	\$ 546,726	100.0%
01100 General Fund	516,831	100.0%	543,640	100.0%	546,726	100.0%
Grand Total	\$ 516,831	100.0%	\$ 543,640	100.0%	\$ 546,726	100.0%

This program is funded entirely with general fund.

Present Law Adjustments

The “Present Law Adjustments” table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget approved by the legislature. “Statewide Present Law” adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services					12,422					14,053
Vacancy Savings					(6,571)					(6,635)
Inflation/Deflation					27,933					29,369
Fixed Costs					(11,979)					(18,647)
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments					\$21,805					\$18,140
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments					\$21,805					\$18,140

New Proposals

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
Program	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13										
02	0.00	4,849	0	0	4,849	0.00	11,590	0	0	11,590
DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions										
02	0.00	155	0	0	155	0.00	165	0	0	165
Total	0.00	\$5,004	\$0	\$0	\$5,004	0.00	\$11,755	\$0	\$0	\$11,755

DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13 - The legislature passed a pay plan (HB 13 of the 2007 regular session) that provides an additional 3.0 percent in FY 2008 and FY 2009, a 0.5 percent increase in the 10-year longevity increment, an additional 0.6 percent discretionary allocation, as well as an additional \$33 per month in health insurance contribution in FY 2008 and an additional \$36 per month in FY 2009. These amounts represent this program’s allocation of costs to fund this pay plan.

DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - The legislature adopted HB 131, which increases the employer contribution to retirement systems. The amounts shown represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this increased contribution.

Program Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	29.74	0.00	0.00	29.74	0.00	0.00	29.74	29.74
Personal Services	1,034,738	99,404	55,411	1,189,553	107,098	107,652	1,249,488	2,439,041
Operating Expenses	109,843	2,079	0	111,922	2,888	0	112,731	224,653
Total Costs	\$1,144,581	\$101,483	\$55,411	\$1,301,475	\$109,986	\$107,652	\$1,362,219	\$2,663,694
General Fund	1,117,394	101,483	55,411	1,274,288	109,986	107,652	1,335,032	2,609,320
Federal Special	27,187	0	0	27,187	0	0	27,187	54,374
Total Funds	\$1,144,581	\$101,483	\$55,411	\$1,301,475	\$109,986	\$107,652	\$1,362,219	\$2,663,694

Program Description

The Student Services Program provides residential care for children living at the school. The residential program includes two cottages, each having three wings connected by a food service building.

Program Highlights

Student Services Program Major Budget Highlights	
♦	The legislature approved statewide present law adjustments and increases for the per educator component.

Program Narrative

The 2005 Legislature eliminated \$87,901 of vacancy savings for this program in the 2007 biennial budget to allow MSDB to address recruitment and retention issues with staff. MSDB increased salaries in this program. However, due to a large number of vacancies (11 percent in FY 2006) the program did not use all of its appropriation authority for personal services in FY 2006. The executive has included vacancy savings of \$94,890 in the 2009 biennial budget.

Funding

The following table shows program funding, by source, for the base year and for the 2009 biennium as adopted by the legislature.

Program Funding Table Student Services						
Program Funding	Base FY 2006	% of Base FY 2006	Budget FY 2008	% of Budget FY 2008	Budget FY 2009	% of Budget FY 2009
01000 Total General Fund	\$ 1,117,394	97.6%	\$ 1,274,288	97.9%	\$ 1,335,032	98.0%
01100 General Fund	1,117,394	97.6%	1,274,288	97.9%	1,335,032	98.0%
03000 Total Federal Special Funds	27,187	2.4%	27,187	2.1%	27,187	2.0%
03167 National School Lunch	27,187	2.4%	27,187	2.1%	27,187	2.0%
Grand Total	\$ 1,144,581	100.0%	\$ 1,301,475	100.0%	\$ 1,362,219	100.0%

The Student Services Program is funded by general fund and federal funds from the national school lunch program.

Present Law Adjustments

The “Present Law Adjustments” table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget approved by the legislature. “Statewide Present Law” adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

Present Law Adjustments										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
Personal Services					146,691					154,701
Vacancy Savings					(47,287)					(47,603)
Inflation/Deflation					2,079					2,888
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments					\$101,483					\$109,986
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments					\$101,483					\$109,986

New Proposals

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
Program	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 314 - Per Educator Component Increase										
03	0.00	13,206	0	0	13,206	0.00	13,232	0	0	13,232
DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13										
03	0.00	40,636	0	0	40,636	0.00	92,771	0	0	92,771
DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131										
03	0.00	1,569	0	0	1,569	0.00	1,649	0	0	1,649
Total	0.00	\$55,411	\$0	\$0	\$55,411	0.00	\$107,652	\$0	\$0	\$107,652

DP 314 - Per Educator Component Increase - The legislature appropriated \$26,438 of general fund in the 2009 biennium to support increases to the per educator component as defined in 20-9-306 (15), MCA in the Student Services Program.

DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13 - The legislature passed a pay plan (HB 13 of the 2007 regular session) that provides an additional 3.0 percent in FY 2008 and FY 2009, a 0.5 percent increase in the 10-year longevity increment, an additional 0.6 percent discretionary allocation, as well as an additional \$33 per month in health insurance contribution in FY 2008 and an additional \$36 per month in FY 2009. These amounts represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this pay plan.

DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131 - The legislature adopted HB 131, which increases the employer contribution to retirement systems. The amounts shown represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this increased contribution.

Program Legislative Budget

The following table summarizes the total legislative budget for the agency by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Program Legislative Budget								
Budget Item	Base Budget Fiscal 2006	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2008	New Proposals Fiscal 2008	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2008	PL Base Adjustment Fiscal 2009	New Proposals Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 2009	Total Leg. Budget Fiscal 08-09
FTE	45.29	0.00	4.58	49.87	0.00	4.58	49.87	49.87
Personal Services	2,743,824	88,338	643,920	3,476,082	91,591	821,055	3,656,470	7,132,552
Operating Expenses	267,251	(18,497)	62,362	311,116	(17,252)	55,919	305,918	617,034
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Costs	\$3,011,075	\$69,841	\$706,282	\$3,787,198	\$74,339	\$876,974	\$3,962,388	\$7,749,586
General Fund	2,656,612	(65,977)	706,282	3,296,917	63,522	876,974	3,597,108	6,894,025
State/Other Special	280,709	136,055	0	416,764	11,055	0	291,764	708,528
Federal Special	73,754	(237)	0	73,517	(238)	0	73,516	147,033
Total Funds	\$3,011,075	\$69,841	\$706,282	\$3,787,198	\$74,339	\$876,974	\$3,962,388	\$7,749,586

Program Description

The Education Program provides an education for children with hearing and/or sight loss that prevents them from receiving a quality education in their local schools. The Education Program serves visually and hearing impaired children who remain in their local school districts by providing deaf/blind educational support services to the students' local schools. The program also offers "mainstream" programs for on-campus students in a joint effort with the Great Falls public school system. Additionally, pursuant to 20-8-102(3), MCA, the school is charged with the responsibility of tracking a child identified as hearing or visually impaired from the time of impairment identification through the child's exit from intervention or educational services.

The Education Program serves approximately 70 children enrolled at MSDB, and provides support services to public schools providing education to children qualified to attend MSDB, but who wish to remain in their local school districts. In FY 2006, the program had 61 employees representing 49.87 FTE providing services including 6 teachers working with deaf students, 14 teachers for the blind, 9 interpreters, 12 teaching assistants, 9 outreach consultants, 7 professional support staff, 1 administrator, 1 clerical, 1 librarian, and 1 lifeguard.

Program Highlights

Education Program Major Budget Highlights	
The legislative increases to the program budget included:	
♦	\$281,028 to address recruitment and retention issues with professional staff
♦	FTE and general fund to:
	• Reduce caseloads for outreach consultants
	• Implement an accreditation recommendation for a guidance counselor
	• Increase the number of education audiologists

Funding

The following table shows program funding, by source, for the base year and for the 2009 biennium as adopted by the legislature.

Program Funding Table						
Education						
Program Funding	Base FY 2006	% of Base FY 2006	Budget FY 2008	% of Budget FY 2008	Budget FY 2009	% of Budget FY 2009
01000 Total General Fund	\$ 2,656,612	88.2%	\$ 3,296,917	87.1%	\$ 3,597,108	90.8%
01100 General Fund	2,656,612	88.2%	3,296,917	87.1%	3,597,108	90.8%
02000 Total State Special Funds	280,709	9.3%	416,764	11.0%	291,764	7.4%
02050 School Trust Interest/Income	280,709	9.3%	416,764	11.0%	291,764	7.4%
03000 Total Federal Special Funds	73,754	2.4%	73,517	1.9%	73,516	1.9%
03012 E.C.I.A. Chapter I	73,754	2.4%	73,517	1.9%	73,516	1.9%
Grand Total	\$ 3,011,075	100.0%	\$ 3,787,198	100.0%	\$ 3,962,388	100.0%

The Education Program is funded by general fund, state special revenue from school trust lands, rental income, and reimbursements from school districts for large print and Braille materials, and federal grants used to meet special education program needs.

Present Law Adjustments

The “Present Law Adjustments” table shows the primary changes to the adjusted base budget approved by the legislature. “Statewide Present Law” adjustments are standard categories of adjustments made to all agencies. Decisions on these items were applied globally to all agencies. The other numbered adjustments in the table correspond to the narrative descriptions.

Present Law Adjustments										
Fiscal 2008					Fiscal 2009					
FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	
Personal Services				176,807					180,193	
Vacancy Savings				(114,712)					(114,845)	
Inflation/Deflation				24,680					26,006	
Fixed Costs				(14)					(14)	
Total Statewide Present Law Adjustments				\$86,761					\$91,340	
DP 1 - Extracurricular Compensation										
0.00	26,243	0	0	26,243	0.00	26,243	0	0	26,243	
DP 7 - Special Session 2005 - Indian Ed & Achievement Gap										
0.00	3,409	0	0	3,409	0.00	3,409	0	0	3,409	
DP 9 - Replace Motor Pool Lease Van										
0.00	3,938	0	0	3,938	0.00	3,861	0	0	3,861	
DP 12 - HB 438 Initial Equipment Reduction										
0.00	(48,542)	0	0	(48,542)	0.00	(48,542)	0	0	(48,542)	
DP 21 - Indirect Costs Corrections										
0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	
DP 6015 - State Motor Pool Rate Change										
0.00	(1,732)	(177)	(59)	(1,968)	0.00	(1,735)	(177)	(60)	(1,972)	
Total Other Present Law Adjustments										
0.00	(\$16,684)	(\$177)	(\$59)	(\$16,920)	0.00	(\$16,764)	(\$177)	(\$60)	(\$17,001)	
Grand Total All Present Law Adjustments				\$69,841					\$74,339	

DP 1 - Extracurricular Compensation - The legislature provided \$26,243 in general fund each year of the biennium to pay staff for supervising or coaching extracurricular activities in sports and other school functions. The amount includes \$22,150 in salaries and \$4,093 in benefits.

DP 7 - Special Session 2005 - Indian Ed & Achievement Gap - The legislature provided \$4,431 general fund in each year of the biennium to support Indian Education for All and Closing the Achievement Gap. \$2,387 is related to the 2005 Special Session and the remaining \$2,044 was included as an increase in Senate Bill 2 of the 2007 Special Session.

DP 9 - Replace Motor Pool Lease Van - The legislature provided \$3,938 in general fund in FY 2008 and \$3,861 in general fund in FY 2009 to lease a motor pool van to replace a school van that has high mileage.

DP 12 - HB 438 Initial Equipment Reduction - The legislature removed \$48,542 in general fund in each year of the biennium from the 2006 base budget for equipment start-up costs included as part of the implementation of HB 438 from 2005 regular session.

DP 21 - Indirect Costs Corrections - The legislature moved indirect costs for federal programs between expenditure line items from statewide indirect costs (62888) to indirect costs administrative (62827). This had no effect on the overall operating costs for the program.

DP 6015 - State Motor Pool Rate Change - The funding for vehicle rentals and leases from the State Motor Pool was reduced from the level requested by the Governor.

New Proposals

New Proposals										
-----Fiscal 2008-----						-----Fiscal 2009-----				
Program	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	State Special	Federal Special	Total Funds
DP 2 - Retention/Recruitment of Highly Qualified Staff										
04	0.00	213,857	0	0	213,857	0.00	265,050	0	0	265,050
DP 3 - Expansion of Outreach Services										
04	3.08	227,663	0	0	227,663	3.08	221,509	0	0	221,509
DP 4 - Guidance Counselor										
04	0.73	42,676	0	0	42,676	0.73	42,676	0	0	42,676
DP 6 - Educational Audiologist										
04	0.77	56,418	0	0	56,418	0.77	56,418	0	0	56,418
DP 414 - Per Educator Component Increase										
04	0.00	41,710	0	0	41,710	0.00	41,958	0	0	41,958
DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13										
04	0.00	92,538	0	0	92,538	0.00	216,684	0	0	216,684
DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131										
04	0.00	31,420	0	0	31,420	0.00	32,679	0	0	32,679
Total	4.58	\$706,282	\$0	\$0	\$706,282	4.58	\$876,974	\$0	\$0	\$876,974

DP 2 - Retention/Recruitment of Highly Qualified Staff - The legislature provided for market adjustments to licensed professional staff and interpreters with the purpose of assisting the school in recruiting and retaining these highly qualified staff.

The legislature considered various performance management principles when examining this proposal and approved its inclusion in the narrative. It is as submitted by the agency, with editing by LFD staff as necessary for brevity and/or clarity, and changes as required by the legislature.

Justification: MSDB has 40 professional staff with special skills. Salary disparities with the Great Falls school district raise concerns that MSDB will not be able to retain current staff or attract new staff to replace the large number expected to retire.

Goals: Move towards market parity for the current 40 licensed professional staff and nine interpreter-tutors, and offer competitive salaries to mitigate the difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified staff to maintain viable programs for Montana's deaf and blind students.

Performance Measures: Increase salaries based on market analysis of license professional staff as compared to Great Falls Public Schools salary matrix for licensed professional staff and the national salary for interpreters as of the beginning of the contract for the 2007-08 school year.

Milestones:

- Complete negotiations with collective bargaining units representing professional staff by August 2007
- Calculate and notify staff of amounts by September 2007

FTE: This proposal includes no new FTE. Negotiations with collective bargaining units are included as responsibilities for Department of Administration.

Funding: MSDB professional staff salaries are almost exclusively funded from the general fund. Under the current revenue structure, there is no other revenue source available to fund this proposal.

Obstacles: The Great Falls Public Schools may increase their teacher salaries in the next biennium, increasing the gap between MSDB salaries and GFPS salaries. The agency has not identified any other challenges which might block or impede the implementation of this proposal.

Risk: The risk to the state and MSDB is that sensory impaired students will not receive appropriate educational services as required by statute.

DP 3 - Expansion of Outreach Services - The legislature provided for general fund in each year of the biennium to support 3.08 FTE for outreach consultants to provide consultation and technical assistance to districts that have sensory impaired children enrolled. One consultant is to serve blind/low vision students and three are to serve deaf/hard of hearing students.

The legislature considered various performance management principles when examining this proposal and approved its inclusion in the narrative. It is as submitted by the agency, with editing by LFD staff as necessary for brevity and/or clarity, and changes as required by the legislature.

Justification: There are currently 99 hearing impaired and 187 visually impaired students served in over 90 school districts across Montana. Only five districts across the state employ teachers with additional training in the fields of deafness or blindness.

Goals: Reduce caseloads from 27 to 23 students for consultants serving visually impaired students and children ages 0 to 3, and from 49 to 20 students for consultants serving deaf students and children ages 0 to 3. Improve learning outcomes through greater access to the skills and knowledge through increased contact, consultation, and technical assistance.

Performance Criteria: After the implementation of this proposal, an analysis of caseloads will be conducted to collect the following data:

1. Level of intensity of services required by each student; and
2. Contact hours per student/child.

The data will then be used to ensure that consultants have balanced caseloads with no more than 20 to 27 students to assure the most efficient use of staff time.

Milestones:

- MSDB will hire 4 additional consultants prior to the start of the 2007-2008 school year
- Level of intensity of services required by each student will be assessed by September 2007
- Number of contact hours needed for each student will be determined by Individual Education Plan beginning September 2007

FTE:

- One additional consultant serving blind/low vision students - hired by August 2007.
- Three additional consultants serving deaf/hard of hearing students - hired by August 2007.

Funding: Funding is from the general fund

Obstacles: Recruitment and retention of qualified staff to fill these positions can be a challenge because salaries are not competitive with like positions in the state or the region (See DP 2 - Recruitment and Retention of Highly Qualified Staff).

Risks: The majority of students served in the Outreach Program do not have teachers that have training specific to the student's disability. The risk to these students is limited access to the districts' curriculum resulting in an inadequate education.

DP 4 - Guidance Counselor - The legislature provided general fund support for 1.00 FTE for a certified counselor to provide direct services to students who need support. The guidance counselor is to develop, coordinate, and implement a school counseling program. Additionally, this position will provide a resource to local districts in assessing the needs of, and developing intervention plans for, deaf or blind children with significant behavior or emotional issues.

DP 6 - Educational Audiologist - The legislature provided general fund support in both years of the biennium to support an additional FTE to serve as an educational audiologist to provide for statewide coordination of the Universal Newborn Infant Hearing Screening Program (UNHS), Hearing Conservation Program (HCP), and coordinate services and follow up on children identified with a hearing loss.

DP 414 - Per Educator Component Increase - The legislature provided \$41,710 in FY 2008 and \$41,958 in FY 2009 to fund increases to the per quality educator component as amended in 20-9-306 (15), MCA in the Education Program.

DP 6013 - 2009 Biennium Pay Plan - HB 13 - The legislature passed a pay plan (HB 13 of the 2007 regular session) that provides an additional 3.0 percent in FY 2008 and FY 2009, a 0.5 percent increase in the 10-year longevity increment, an additional 0.6 percent discretionary allocation, as well as an additional \$33 per month in health insurance contribution in FY 2008 and an additional \$36 per month in FY 2009. These amounts represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this pay plan.

DP 6014 - Retirement Employer Contributions - HB 131 - The legislature adopted HB 131, which increases the employer contribution to retirement systems. The amounts shown represent this program's allocation of costs to fund this increased contribution.